

Husband: **JEDIDIAH ALLEN**

Born: 3 January 1647 Sandwich, Barnstable County, Massachusetts
 Married: 1668 Massachusetts
 Died: 21 January 1712 Shrewsbury, Monmouth County, New Jersey
 Buried: *Shrewsbury Friends' Burial Ground*

Father: RALPH ALLEN
 Mother: ESTHER SWIFT

Wife: **ELIZABETH HOWLAND**

Born: 1646 Duxbury, Massachusetts
 Died: >1713
 Buried: *Shrewsbury Friends' Burial Ground*

Father: HENRY HOWLAND
 Mother: MARY NEWLAND

Issue:	Born:	Place:
1) EXPERIENCE ALLEN	30 August 1669	<i>Sandwich, Barnstable County, Massachusetts</i>
2) EPHRAIM ALLEN	30 December 1670	<i>Sandwich, Barnstable County, Massachusetts</i>
3) ELISHA ALLEN	18 October 1672	<i>Sandwich, Barnstable County, Massachusetts</i>
4) NATHAN ALLEN	2 February 1674	<i>Sandwich, Barnstable County, Massachusetts</i>
5) JUDAH ALLEN	17 October 1675	<i>Sandwich, Barnstable County, Massachusetts</i>
6) ESTHER ALLEN	22 March 1677	Sandwich, Barnstable County, Massachusetts
7) RALPH ALLEN	7 January 1678	<i>Sandwich, Barnstable County, Massachusetts</i>
8) HENRY ALLEN	24 March 1680	<i>Sandwich, Barnstable County, Massachusetts</i>
9) MARY ALLEN	15 November 1681	<i>Sandwich, Barnstable County, Massachusetts</i>
10) PATIENCE ALLEN	8 May 1683	<i>Sandwich, Barnstable County, Massachusetts</i>
11) MERIBAH ALLEN	12 November 1686	<i>Shrewsbury, Monmouth County, East Jersey</i>
12) JONATHON ALLEN (twin)	16 October 1689	<i>Shrewsbury, Monmouth County, East Jersey</i>
13) DAVID ALLEN (twin)	16 October 1689	<i>Shrewsbury, Monmouth County, East Jersey</i>

JEDIDIAH and JEDEDIAH are both accepted spellings of this given name; the former is used because that is how it appears in the extract of his last Will and Testament. Two sources that gave structure to this biography were that of LINDA MARIE SPENCE and on the website of the BARCLAY family.¹ During his early teens JEDIDIAH was exposed to the persecutions of the Quakers in Sandwich.

Their children, except EXPERIENCE who had died already, are named in that instrument and their dates of birth come from East Jersey Deed Book A and the Shrewsbury Friend's Minutes. For unknown reasons, in the beginning of 1686 a *Record of the births of the children of JEDEDIAH ALLEN and wife ELIZABETH, born at Sandweth, Plymouth Colony, New England to wit ...* appears in Book A of East Jersey Deeds. This names their 10 children while a second list in the same book gives their names and dates of birth. In both instances ELISHA is recorded as ELIZABETH and some of the dates are said not to match with the Sandwich Friends record.²

On 8 November 1683 JEDIDIAH ALLEN, of Sandwich, New Plymouth Colony, purchased an undivided share in Shrewsbury Township from JOB ALMY of Portsmouth, Rhode Island by for £45.

Not included was *the house lot near the Meeting House and a piece of Meadow sold by JOHN CHAMNES and the great lot, already divided, adjoining the land of BARTHOLOMEW WEST's children.* This was sold on 4 September 1683 to RICHARD HARTSHORNE of Middletown and was described as *for the use of JOB ALMY of Rod Island, for his right, title, etc. in and to a share of land and meadow formerly owned in Shrewsbury Township, adjoining to WILLIAM WEST and his brother.* The remainder of this tract in the town of Shrewsbury became JEDIDIAH and ELIZABETH's Plantation home and is now the site of the *Tavern Museum at the Allen Homestead*.³ They continued to live in Sandwich for some time but had moved to Shrewsbury in East Jersey by January 1685 as on the 26th of that month, JEDIDIAH and GEORGE HULETT were granted Letters of Administration on the estate of JOSEPH PARKER.⁴

Five men with the surname ALLEN purchased land in Monmouth between 1670 and 1700 (ELLIS says they moved into the area but that is not wholly accurate) and after the original patentees; they are: JEDIDIAH and his sons ELISHA and EPHRAIM, and brothers CALEB and JUDAH.⁵ What relationship the last two are, relative to JEDIDIAH, presents a problem as JUDAH is often mistakenly credited with buying the proprietary right of JOB ALMY and owning the land at four corners. JEDIDIAH's son with named JUDAH was only 8 years old in 1683 so it is safe to say he was not buying land but the use of that given name tends to support the idea that JEDIDIAH and the unknown JUDAH were related. The earliest misunderstanding dates to 1693 when King's Highway was laid out; it was said to run *betwixt JOHN LIPPINCOTT's great lot and JUDAH ALLEN to the Navesincks River.* While this is an accurate description, what is overlooked is that the 'four corners' property owned by JEDIDIAH was also next to JOHN LIPPINCOTT's *great lot*, with people assuming the JUDAH ALLEN lot is at 'four corners.' One of the deeds clarifies this by stating that JUDAH's land is 17 chains, about a quarter-mile, from the highway. In 1709 another highway was laid out *beginning at y^e west side of y^e Meeting-House in Shrewsbury, betwixt JUDAH ALLEN's and RESTORE LIPPINCOTT's lines...*⁶ This difficulty does not originate in Shrewsbury but in Sandwich where JEDIDIAH was born. This is elaborated on more in the biography of RALPH ALLEN, JEDIDIAH's father but, for this discussion, we need to know there was a family headed up by GEORGE ALLEN. GEORGE had sons JUDAH, DANIEL, and GEORGE JUNIOR – at a minimum; JUDAH had a brother CALEB who is believed to be the fifth person named by ELLIS. This family of George is identified in a group of four records from 1685 to 1693 that were copied into Book C of Monmouth County Deeds though JUDAH ALLEN first shows up on 6 October 1674 when he, with others, sells land in Shrewsbury to THOMAS WHITE and then a year later when, on 16 October 1675 JUDAH ALLEN made a land purchase from *Indians* in Shrewsbury. Each of the 4 is called a *Record of a Deed of Sale* and is a declaration that a transfer of ownership has occurred and this is a record of that transfer but it is not the transfer itself. In Book C we have JUDAH ALLEN selling 4 parcels to his brother DANIEL, of Sandwich, on 12 February 1685. One 70-acre parcel is south of the highway and west of the property of JOHN CHAMNIS *alias* JEDIDIAH ALLEN. This is a way of saying that part of the original lot was sold by someone else; in this case JEDIDIAH owns the lot but a part of that lot had been sold to JOHN CHAMNIS before JEDIDIAH made his purchase, as found above. A similar situation arises with EPHRAIM ALLEN and JOHN WOOLEY where a lot is described as belonging to EPHRAIM ALLEN, *alias* JOHN WOOLEY which borders the second parcel on the northeast. That is a 4-acre tract on the southeast bank of the Shrewsbury River and running 528 feet south to *the highway*, placing this closer to the coast and south of town. The third parcel is a salt meadow and the fourth is 50 acres on both sides of the Manasquan River. Two years later these four parcels are transferred by DANIEL to his father GEORGE ALLEN, both of Sandwich, for the benefit of GEORGE JUNIOR. In 1693 GEORGE, the father, trades two of the parcels for others: first the salt meadow, which was 2 acres on Raccoon

Neck or Island, was traded to NICHOLAS BROWN for 2 acres south of Shrewsbury River on Gooseneck and, second, the 50-acre parcel on the Manasquan was traded to JOHN HAINES in exchange for 133 acres in Shrewsbury that was south of the highway and west of JUDAH'S property. There is an earlier record concerning Gooseneck in which NICHOLAS BROWN posts a bond on 13 July 1688 *to prosecute the caveat against granting to JEDIDIAH ALLEN a patent for 30 acres at that place*. Perhaps related to this is the posting of a second bond on this date by GOVERNOR ANDREW HAMILTON *to sue JEDIDIAH ALLEN for trespass and ejectment*.⁷ None of the four parcels is the northwest corner of 'four corners' and the rest of JUDAH'S land deals are in Burlington and Gloucester Counties.⁸ Now that we know what is not the 'four corners' property, we can look at what property is described as being at that location. But this is not the last we will read of JUDAH ALLEN; he, or someone with that name, resurfaces in Salem County.

THE ALLEN HOMESTEAD

The house on the northwest corner of Sycamore Avenue and Broad Street is where JEDIDIAH and ELIZABETH raised their family; whether the standing structure replaced an earlier or incorporated it is not discussed in the records of the Historic American Buildings Survey. Written in 1937, their report states the house was built in 1667 on King's Highway at Four Corners which is the earliest reported date of construction and may not be accurate. The reliability of their investigation is further undermined as the report states that the ALLEN family only owned the property starting in 1810 when DR. GEORGE ALLEN bought it.⁹ Turning next to the current owner, the Monmouth County Historical Association, they state the property was purchased in 1680 by JUDAH ALLEN; the property was bought in 1683 by JEDIDIAH ALLEN. The Association places the construction of the extant building around 1710 and state that when the Court was held in Shrewsbury it often served as the Courthouse. They continue with the building being sold in 1754 and converted into the Blue Ball Tavern. This is called into question by the first-hand information provided by a great-great-grandson of JEDIDIAH'S that we will get to shortly. The tourist promotional site Visit NJ reports that it was originally built as a second home for RICHARD and MERCY STILLWELL of New York.¹⁰ In ELLIS'S History of Monmouth County the house is undoubtedly JEDIDIAH'S: Shrewsbury was established at 'four corners' where the Eatontown Turnpike and the Tinton Falls and Rumson Neck Road, aka King's Highway, met. The northeast corner was owned by JOHN LIPPINCOTT, save for the land sold for the site of Shrewsbury Meeting House in 1695; in 1706 the southeast corner was owned by NICHOLAS BROWN who donated land on which Christ Church was erected; JEDIDIAH ALLEN lived on the northwest corner where DR. EDMUND W. ALLEN, a great-grandson of JEDIDIAH, was born in 1788, and where he lived and had his practice until his death in 1867. His son DR. JOSEPH ALLEN now (1885) resides there.¹¹ How the Blue Ball Tavern fits into the history of the building has yet to be worked out – since it does not appear the land and building went out of the ALLEN family at all in the 18th century, perhaps it was rented or leased and the tavern operated there for 15 or 20 years before it became owner-occupied again. Whether or not the extant structure has incorporated the earlier one or is a wholly later construction is not known. It was placed on the National Register of Historic Places on 8 November 1974. What cannot be disputed is the purchase of a proprietary share by JEDIDIAH ALLEN from JOB ALMY 8 on November 1683; he makes a specific bequest of that share to two of his sons in his Will he signed on 15 September 1711.

REAL ESTATE

That's one property out of the way. JEDIDIAH is shown as taking possession of a tract of land at *Rumson's Neck* in Shrewsbury from THOMAS LEEDS in 1686 which was *assigned* to MARGARET

LEEDS in 1693; he was a witness to the signing of the last Will and Testament of THOMAS on 13 November 1686 and signed the inventory of the estate two weeks later; MARGARET was executrix and widow of THOMAS. It seems JEDIDIAH had the property in his name and the assignment was some type of transfer to the widow possibly as her dower rights. Another transaction has Jedidiah receiving a Patent for 96.5 acres at *Passequenecqua in right of CLEMENT MASTERS* on 10 November 1687.¹² On 28 October 1687 JEDEDIAH supposedly received a patent for 410 acres at Monmouth County *part as headland for himself, wife and ten children, and part as to an old settler or patentee*.¹³ On There were a series of land purchases between 1683 and 1701 and one sale in 1691 that is in Monmouth County Deeds rather than colonial conveyances: on 5 May 1691 JEDIDIAH and ELIZABETH signed a Record of Deed of Sale for three parcels of land containing 150 acres *with allowance for barrens and highways*: one parcel on the south side of Burlington Road that was part of the purchase *called by the Indian name pesequenocque*, a second parcel opposite the first on the north side of Burlington Road and west of JEDIDIAH'S land, and the third was 3 acres in *the great meadow*, sold to ROBERT DENNIS *of Portsmouth, Rhode Island for a competent sum*, ROBERT was the husband of SARAH HOWLAND, ELIZABETH'S sister¹⁴; between 1697 and 1701 he made 5 purchases in Shrewsbury from the East Jersey Society plus a second purchase in 1701 from GOVERNOR ANDREW HAMILTON for *unappropriated land* in Shrewsbury; 2 purchases were made in 1690 for land in Monmouth from JAMES JOHNSON; there are only 2 recorded sales in the colonial conveyances during his lifetime in Monmouth – one in Shrewsbury to PETER WILSON in 1702 and the other in Freehold to JAMES WILSON in 1706. This last had two tracts, one on Burlington Road in the town of Freehold and the other 14 acres of *Bogg Meadow about a mile southward of the great meadow in the Pines*. Ownership is traced back to the first conveyance: JEDIDIAH buys it 3 May 1706 from ROBERT BURNET who bought it 3 June 1690 from JAMES JOHNSON who bought it 25 February 1687 (*o.s.*; read 1688) from WILLIAM SHATTOCK who bought it from *the proprietors of the Eastern Division* on 28 October 1687.¹⁵ This is not an exhaustive listing, but every colonial conveyance is listed in the endnote. Besides these, he also owned 230 acres in Bucks County, Pennsylvania which were surveyed for him on 29 March 1702.¹⁶ Sales of land in Monmouth County do show up in that counties Deed Books: on 13 April 1706 JEDIDIAH sold a parcel that he received by patent on 7 June 1701 to GEORGE ALLEN that was next to the land that GEORGE *purchased* from JUDAH ALLEN, that parcel being *70 chains from the highway that goes by the meeting house to the falls* and known to be south of the highway. The actual sales have already been discussed above and the details are there as this is a much abbreviated version of what actually happened. JEDIDIAH and ELIZABETH sold two parcels of land they received on 10 November 1687 to JOHN PEARCE of Freehold on 7 April 1708 for £60. The two were a 100-acre tract in the *new purchases called by ye Indian name Passequenocqua* between Burlington Path to the north and Manasquan Brook to the south and a 3.5-acre parcel at the *east end of ye Great Meadow*.¹⁷ He bought half of 1-10th of a 1-48th share of East Jersey from James Johnston on 28 May 1690 which increased the land dividends he received in the future. He received a Patent for 158 acres on 10 January 1701 as his Second Dividend he received as a result of holding a 1-40th share of a 1-24th share of the Province. This is divided between three lots: 146 acres on the west side of *the road to the Falls*; 8 acres at *Narawatacunck*; and 4 acres of meadow northeast of *Mamatehasek Creek*. When the Confirmation of this appears on 7 June 1701, his share has been reduced to 106 acres as follows: the 52-acre decrease is found in the first lot; it is now 94 acres on *the road to the Falls* in Shrewsbury next to the one that GEORGE ALLEN bought from JUDAH ALLEN. The second lot remains 8 acres north and east of his own land and the third is still 4 acres north of GEORGE ALLEN'S parcel and south and east of his own land. The Falls referred to in these transactions may

be Tinton Falls, not the Falls on the Delaware as was stated in his purchase of 240 acres *along the road to Tinton Falls* from SAMUEL and LUCIA WEBB from the Island of Barbados on 12 May 1699.¹⁸

SHREWSBURY FRIENDS

JEDEDIAH ALLEN, PETER TILTON, and REMBRANCE LIPPINCOTT, acting as the Trustees of the Shrewsbury Friends' Meeting, purchased one acre of land *abutting southward upon y^e highway ... and westward upon y^e highway yt leads to y^e North river* from JOHN LIPPINCOTT on 5 March 1695 for £5. A stipulation in the deed states that the property is limited to the *benefitt & behoof of the poor people belonging to ye Religious Society of ye people of God called Quakers forever and for a place to erect a Meeting House and make a burying place for ye use and service of ye said people called Quakers ... who met at Francis Borden's in Shrewsbury, and to no other use, intent, or purpose whatsoever*. The northeast quadrant of 'four corners' was the location of the Shrewsbury Friends' Meeting House until 1816.¹⁹ JEDIDIAH and ELIZABETH signed as witnesses to at least 21 certifications of marriages taking place at the Shrewsbury Friends' Meeting House.²⁰ He may have represented the Shrewsbury Monthly Meeting at the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting in 1685 but the writer of that statement provides no citation.

SPIRITUAL CALLING OR....

In September 1694 JEDIDIAH was brought before the Monmouth Court for refusing to serve as Constable of Monmouth. He defended his position by stating *those who did belong or pretend to Holy Orders* were exempt from such duties. Several people testified that he was a *teacher among their sect*. JOHN SMITH of Burlington wrote Memoirs concerning many Persons Eminent for Piety and Virtue among the People called Quakers in 1787 and, of JEDIDIAH he wrote:

I have been credibly informed he was a Friend eminent in the ministry, and lived at Shrewsbury in New Jersey. I find by a Minute of ministering Friends held at Burlington in the 7th mo. 1688 that he informed the meeting of his having lately visited Rhode Island and New England to good satisfaction. His last Will is dated 25th of 7th mo. 1707 and the probate 6th of Feb. 1711. And he is mentioned as being present at a meeting of ministering Friends at Burlington in the 7th mo. 1710 so that his decease must have happened between the two last mentioned dates. [date of Will is suspect as how does one know a discarded Will ever existed; the date is probably that of the Codicil on 25 September 1711; probate date is o.s.]

A nice write up but one has to wonder why he refused to serve as Constable yet served as a Judge. Perhaps there was a significant change in his spiritual duties between 1694 and 1700, or he wanted to get out of the hassle of being Constable, much like getting out of jury duty today.

JUDGE, PRISONER, AND TRAITOR

It has been stated that he was a member of the New Jersey assembly from 1686 to 1703 and a deputy to the general assembly of New Jersey in 1692; no reference provided. On 16 September 1692 the returns from a Writ for an Election of the General Assembly show JUDIDIAH ALLEN and ELIAKIM WARDELL being chosen to represent Shrewsbury Township.²¹

He served as a judge on the County Court in 1700 and 1701.²² JEDEDIAH ALLEN was one of the three justices appointed to the Court of Common Sessions held at Middletown on 25 March 1701. MOSES BUTTERWORTH was before the bar on charges of piracy when the proceedings were broken up by local citizens who maintained these people had no authority to be holding Court.²³

Thirty to forty armed men appeared and the *King's Attorney General of the Province* and the *Justices* called for order and drew swords as soon as it became apparent their orders were not to be heeded. The crowd, now grown to *about one hundred*, rose up and assailed the Court members, shredded the Court's examination of BUTTERWORTH, disarmed the Court and arrested the officials while BUTTERWORTH was spirited away, not to be heard from again. *CAPT. SAFTIE GROVER* heads the list of names of the armed Middletown men, followed by the BORDENS, OBADIAH HOLMES, WILLIAM WINTER, ELISHA LAWRENCE, ZEBULON CLAYTON, and JAMES GROVER JUNIOR. A newly appointed bench brought the offenders before it and levied fines the following day. Unable or unwilling to pay their fines, the *Governor*, the two *Justices*, the *King's Attorney General* and the *Secretary* as well as the *Court Clerk* and the *Under-Sheriff* were held prisoner four days before being released, without further action, on the 29th. A letter sent from the Council in New York, dated 29 August 1701, to SAFETY GROVER and such others as have imprisoned governor HAMILTON and the judges of New Jersey stated they were assuming jurisdiction over the matter. The fact that no other official Court proceedings for this session were recorded mean that the actions taken in the name of the Court once the magistrates had been taken captive were refused to be recognized as valid. However, two of those accused are found at the next Sessions of Court as seated judges.²⁴ He was a member of the colonial Assembly in 1703.²⁵ In the Sessions of Court at Burlington in May 1704 JEDIDIAH ALLEN was indicted on two counts of sedition before the Grand Jury; the first for uttering seditious words about the Governor, LORD CORNBURY when he said that COLONEL LEWIS MORRIS was dismissed *from being of the council by my Lord, but it was more than my Lord had power to Doe*; and the second for saying that *the Assembly could have done their business well enough, but that the Governor dissolved it, which he was satisfied was because they would not give him money enough*. MORRIS had been appointed to the Provincial Council in 1703 but removed from that office by LORD CORNBURY in early 1704. Many interpreted the law to specifically have this ability to not be held by any appointed representative, only by elected officials and bodies. The grand jury refused to indict him. CORNBURY instructed the Attorney General, ALEXANDER GRIFFITH, to bring charges nonetheless to which he entered a plea of *not guilty*. His case was never heard but not before the Court caused him all *the annoyance and expense possible*.²⁶

WRAPPING UP

JEDIDIAH ALLEN, yeoman of Shrewsbury, signed his last Will and Testament on 15 September 1711 which was supplemented with a Codicil that supplements the Will with distribution of lands and rights not detailed in the Will, signed 25 September 1711. He names his wife ELIZABETH as the sole executrix and recipient of residue of real and personal estate; this last was probably the reason for the Codicil as the land contained therein would be part of the residue. It is extensive but much is repeated here as it mentions many parcels of land. First though there are legacies of £150 per year to be paid yearly: £15 to MARY, daughter of JOHN ALLEN, of Woodbridge, deceased, it is conjectured that JOHN refers to the son of JEDIDIAH's half-brother RALPH; £20 to JOSEPH and to DINAH, children of EPHRAIM; and £95 to widow provided that son DAVID allows her to remain at home. There are cash bequests too, all due within a year of his death: £45 to son HENRY and £40 to each son EPHRAIM, ELISHA, NATHAN, JUDAH, RALPH, JONATHON, and DAVID, this last is to be subtracted from the £150 yearly legacies. Each of 4 daughters is to receive £25, those being ESTHER ADAMS, MARY WELLS, PATIENCE TILTON, and MERIBAH THORN; EXPERIENCE is not named as she died 8 years earlier. Each child is to receive 1 silver spoon when convenient and to divide books amongst themselves. The Great Family Bible is left to so DAVID. His real estate holdings were divided in the

Will and Codicil as follows (this list includes additions of acreage to tracts wherein it was not specified in the Will but later determined:

- Plantation and home where he lives that he bought from JOB ALMY goes to DAVID provided he allot to his mother a cellar room, a ground floor room, and the room above with the right to entertain and unobstructed access plus all the firewood, chopped and delivered, she needs every year. The extract does not include what happens if DAVID fails to meet his obligation;
- 230 acres in Pennsylvania to eldest son EPHRAIM;
- 80 acres in Shrewsbury, said to be next to THOMAS WHITE, to grandson JOSEPH ALLEN;
- Son RALPH the land next to where he lives and the other half, about 9 acres, of the bog he owns half of (for a total of 18 acres);
- Son HENRY the land next to where he lives, which is between his land and the 80 acres given to grandson JOSEPH; and the other half of the bog he owns half of;
- Land south of plantation home and north of HENRY and JOSEPH'S lands to son JONATHON;
- Iron mine bog and adjacent 15 acres to son JONATHON;
- Meadow in Goose Neck, Shrewsbury is split equally between sons JONATHON and DAVID;
- Raccoon Island meadow is split equally between sons HENRY and JONATHON;
- 24.5 acre meadow in Freehold is split equally between sons RALPH and HENRY;
- Meadow in Shrewsbury southeast of RALPH'S bog is split equally between SONS David and JONATHON; and
- East Jersey proprietary right to be split equally between sons HENRY and JONATHON.

JEDIDIAH'S signature to the Will was witnessed by SAMUEL DENNIS, AMOS WHITE, WILLIAM BRINLEY, and JACOB DENNIS; his signature to the Codicil was witnessed by SAMUEL DENNIS, WILLIAM HUNT, and THOMAS CHAMBERS. On 6 February 1712 the Will was proved by the oath of the two DENNIS'S and BRINLEY and the attestation of ELIZABETH ALLEN, executrix while the Codicil was proved by the oath of SAMUEL DENNIS on the same date and of WILLIAM HUNT on the following day, before THOMAS GORDON, Surrogate.

The inventory of his estate, dated 8 February 1712 and signed by GEORGE CORLIES and THOMAS WHITE, reveals his personal estate included clothes, £12; a silver tankard and silver utensils, £30; books, £15; *1 Negroe Girl & 1 Grindstone*, £41; pewter, £5; and ready cash and £6 *due from his son RALPH*, £77.04.06. It also included £522.017.011 *due by Severall Bonds* with the total personal estate valued at £1,454.07.05 (over \$310k in February 2019). The balance, £751.05, was for cattle, household goods, etc. The inventory was proved by ELIZABETH ALLEN, executrix before THOMAS GORDON, Surrogate on 27 February 1712.²⁷

The legacies mentioned are different from the monetary bequests in that the sums were large and ongoing. The recipients were minors and the WIDOW ALLEN which required someone to handle the money to fulfill the legacies through investments, sale of personal and real estate as needed, and to provide an accounting to insure good investments are being used and the distribution is as stated with no hidden amounts going to the money manager. Though the extract does not include the name of the person designated, we can be safe in saying that it was his son DAVID as his monetary bequest is to be deducted from the legacy amount due him.

The *Great Family Bible*, as JEDIDIAH called it, was bequeathed to their son DAVID and it is still with a descendant extant today. JEDIDIAH entered his parents' names, RALPH and ESTHER ALLEN, and gives his own date of birth as 3 January 1646 which is in the old style, hence, by our calendar, he was born in 1647.²⁸ Other entries, unfortunately illegible, included the date of death of his parents and his sister EXPERIENCE (born 30 August 1668; died 1704). Despite being illegible, the order of entries informs us that JEDIDIAH's father RALPH died before JEDIDIAH's maternal grandmother who he names in the Bible as JANE SWIFT. We know JANE died between 12 October 1662 and 25 December 1663 because the first is the date she signed her Will and the second is the date of the inventory of her estate. Perhaps the Will can provide more information such as, if she refers to her daughter ESTHER as a widow, then RALPH died before she signed her Will. Also listed in this Bible are BENJAMIN and ELIZABETH ALLEN who have five children between 1735 and 1749 but it is not clear how BENJAMIN was related; because of the years of birth for their children, he was not likely a son of our subjects JEDIDIAH and ELIZABETH which is how the NEHGR article portrays them.²⁹

Incidentally the well known book This Old Monmouth of Ours, states that he was married 3 times, outliving his wife ELIZABETH by at least two decades, which just goes to prove that just because something is old does not mean it's correct. An ELIZABETH ALLEN bought land from EDWARD RUCKELL in Burlington County. It was surveyed by ANDREW HEATH (or possibly sold to) which was recorded on 16 February 1700.³⁰ It seems unlikely to be our subject since women were legally prohibited from such acts but it is included here just in case.

It has yet to be determined what happened in ELIZABETH's life after the death of her husband; there are no colonial conveyances or Monmouth County deeds in her name after his death.

ISSUE:

1. EXPERIENCE ALLEN: married BENJAMIN FIELD. Died circa 1704, probably childless.
2. EPHRAIM ALLEN: is not the person of the same name who married MARGARET WARDELL on 29 February 1681 and died 29 January 1692 as this EPHRAIM was alive when his father wrote his Will in 1712. According to ELLIS's History of Monmouth County (p. 620) he married a daughter of WILLIAM WEST. He may be the progenitor of one of the ALLEN families of Salem County; it appears his son JEDEDIAH ALLEN married ELIZABETH CURLIES and they had a son JEDEDIAH. ELIZABETH died and JEDEDIAH married MARY CHAMLESS of Alloways' Creek so the move to Salem came before the second marriage.³¹
3. ELISHA or *ELIASHIB* ALLEN: conveyed land at Burlington to his brother NATHAN in 1711.
4. NATHAN ALLEN: He bought 520 acres on Doctor's Creek in 1706 from ROBERT BURNETT on which Allentown grew from an isolated home to a thriving village. ROBERT BURNETT was his father-in-law, having married MARGERY BURNETT at Chesterfield Meeting on 4 October 1705.³²
5. JUDAH ALLEN: A deed from 1700 shows JUDAH ALLEN selling 500 acres to WILLIAM ALLEN which could be mistakenly attributed to this JUDAH; this is unlikely when one notices in the deed that year he purchased the land – 1686, when this JUDAH was 11. JUDAH ALLEN sold a tract in Evesham Township to JOHN BROOKES in 1707 and with this JUDAH being 32, there's a greater possibility it was him doing the selling. It is possible that he had received partial ownership of some land in Great Egg Harbour in Gloucester County from his sister's father-in-law JOHN ADAMS through the latter's Codicil to his Will dated 24 August 1701 as he and his nephew JAMES ADAMS sold 200 acres of land on *Poteonk* or Pothunk Creek there to JAMES

STEELMAN on 4 December 1708.³³ Was executor for sister ESTHER ADAMS and appointed guardian of her daughter MARGERY on 12 November 1725. JUDAH ALLEN, one of the executors of the estate of FENWICK ADAMS, gentleman, deceased, of Fenwick's Grove in Salem County, paid *MATHEW ROBINSON for the schooling of MARGERY ADAMS, ELIZABETH FORD, "also for tabling JNO. ADAMS at school and ye Diet of HANNAH ADAMS"* according to a statement filed 9 January 1725. While this does not prove that FENWICK and JUDAH were related, there are other points to consider: first, the named executors are the same as those named by ESTHER ADAMS in her Will; second, JUDAH ALLEN is ESTHER's brother, co-executor, and guardian of her daughter MARGERY while JUDAH ALLEN is FENWICK's co-executor who has a bill paid for MARGERY's education by the estate; third, FENWICK's executors pay a bill owed to SAMUEL ATKINSON and that name appears on the inventory of JAMES ADAMS's estate; fourth, HANNAH and JOHN ADAMS had guardians appointed for them and HANNAH and JNO. ADAMS had some of their living expenses paid by FENWICK's estate; and fifth, MARGERY's schooling was paid for before January 1725 and JUDAH ALLEN was appointed her guardian in November 1725. From the Pickett Surname Forum at genealogy.com: JUDAH ALLEN married DEBORAH ADAMS. Their daughter REBECCA married WILLIAM SHARP III. His father, WILLIAM SHARP II, crossed the Atlantic with his older brothers JOHN and HUGH, leaving Flower, Northampton, England behind in the 1680s

6. **ESTHER ALLEN:** *of Shrewsbury* married 2 September 1695 (in margin is written 3 September 1695) **JAMES ADAMS** of Burlington County at Shrewsbury Friends' Meeting House with her parents and her brother ELISHA signing their certificate. The signing ADAMS included SUSANNAH, DEBORAH, JAMES, ESTHER, and JOB.³⁴
7. **RALPH ALLEN:** married first ANN WRIGHT, daughter of MAHLON WRIGHT of Burlington.³⁵ Later his wife was MARGARET DUNN. RALPH *ALLIN*, yeoman of Shrewsbury, signed his last Will and Testament, *being very sick and weak In Body*, on 13 September 1717. That this is definitely the son of JEDIDIAH and ELIZABETH is found in the bequests wherein he left to his widow MARGARET *a little peas of Land and medow In frehold It Being one half of a pees my Father gave to my brother HENRY and ye other half to me By his last Will*. He gave to his son JEDIDIAH the 100 acres in Crosswicks or in Freehold, near Crosswicks that his mother deeded to him. He names other sons as ARON, EZEKEL, and JAMES and one daughter MARIAM.³⁶ A second daughter named TABITHA is in a list of their children in the Shrewsbury Meeting records. He died 2 October 1718.³⁷
8. **HENRY ALLEN:** married HANNAH CORLEIS of Shrewsbury at Shrewsbury Friends' Meeting House on 29 April 1704 (as stated in margin) with his parents and siblings NATHAN, RALPH, PATIENCE, MARY, and MERIBAH signing the certificate.³⁸ They had 5 children and, because of timing of the last birth, she may have died from complications on 15 March 1712. He married second ABIGAIL ADAMS, daughter of JOHN ADAMS and ELIZABETH KENT about a year later and they had 7 children. Associated with Burlington Friends.
9. **MARY ALLEN:** may have married first THOMAS FRENCH JUNIOR who lived near the town of Burlington at Shrewsbury Friends' Meeting House on 9 June 1697 (as stated in margin).³⁹ Her parents signed the certificate but they signed so many certificates that this could be someone other than their daughter who was married to DANIEL WELLS by 1712.

10. PATIENCE ALLEN: married SAMUEL TILTON at Shrewsbury Friends' Meeting House on 5 June 1705 (a second entry in the Minutes gives the date as 10 March 1705). Witness included JEDIDIAH, RALPH, and NATHAN ALLEN.
11. MERIBAH ALLEN: married WILLIAM THORN of Nottingham at Shrewsbury Friends' Meeting House on *the 2nd day of the week in January 1709* (as stated in margin) with her parents and siblings NATHAN, RALPH, HENRY, DAVID, and JONATHON signing the certificate or at Chesterfield Friends' Meeting on 2 October 1708, depending on the source consulted.⁴⁰
12. DAVID ALLEN (twin): married MARY POWELL in 1711; 2nd wife was HANNAH CHAMPNEYS; he died in 1735. David signed his last Will and Testament on 18 March 1732 in which he names his wife Hannah as one of three executors. He names his children as Jedidiah, Ralph, Elizabeth, and Rebecca. It was proved on 28 May 1735 and his estate was valued at £514 on the 9th and 16th of May 1735 and included 87 *old sheep* and 42 lambs, 50 *neat cattle*, and 12 horses and mares.⁴¹
13. JONATHAN ALLEN (twin): married MARY CORLIES in 1715/16. He signed his last Will and Testament on 12 November 1748 and it was proved two weeks later on 26 November 1748. He names his children as HEZEKIAH, his eldest son, BATHSHEBA, his eldest daughter, NAOMI, JAMES, EXERCISE, SARAH, MARY, HANNAH, and his youngest son, DAVID. His wife may have died earlier as she is not mentioned. His personal estate was valued at £178.16.7 on 19 November and his plantation was sold for £1281 and his property right for £25 according to the accounting statement filed on 1 May 1749.⁴²

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- ¹ Linda Marie Spence, "Ancestors of Harry John Spence & Kathleen Preston Spence," 10 April 2006; <https://www.genealogy.com/ftm/s/p/e/Linda-Spence-/index.html>; last accessed 2 February 2019. TWO DIFFERENT JEDEDIAH ALLENS!!!!; Barclay-Matlock Family Homestead; <http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/b/a/r/Thomas-Barclay/WEBSITE-0001/UHP-0584.html>.
 - ² William Nelson. Documents Relating to the Colonial History of the State of New Jersey, First Series, 21:70, 77. (Patterson, NJ; 1899) Refers to Book A, p. 305 of East Jersey Deeds. Digital copy at Archive.org. John E. Stillwell. "The Quaker Records' from Historical and Genealogical Miscellany, Volume VI" (reprint, New Orleans: Shrewsbury Historical Society; 1975) p. 67.
 - ³ Edwin Salter. "Genealogies - Allen," p. ii, A History of Monmouth and Ocean Counties. (Bayonne, NJ: F Gardner & Son; 1890). Digital version at Archive.org, p. 472 of 553 in pdf. *supra*. Nelson. Documents. First Series, 21:267, 313.
 - ⁴ *supra*. Nelson. Documents. First Series, 21:63; and *infra*. Nelson. Documents. First Series, volume 23, 1:352 – 353.
 - ⁵ Franklin Ellis. History of Monmouth County, New Jersey (Philadelphia: RT Peck & Co.; 1885) pp. 82, 372; digital version at Archive.org.
 - ⁶ *supra*. Ellis. History of Monmouth County, pp. 373, 375.
 - ⁷ Monmouth County Deeds, Book C, pp. 57 – 64. Available at FamilySearch.org; *infra*. Nelson. Documents. First Series, volume 23, 1:67; and *supra*. Nelson. Documents. First Series, 21:124.
 - ⁸ Peter Stemmer, New Jersey Colonial Conveyances: 1660 – 1780, p. 7, Deeds, Book 1, p. 197 and Book A, p. 277; West Jersey History Project, available at <http://www.westjerseyhistory.org/docs/cc/index.shtml>. This work, at over 1,500 pages, claims to be a listing of every colonial conveyance made between 1660 and 1780 and, while being an extravagant claim, it must be said the online database of colonial conveyances under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of State but in the possession of, and maintained by, the State Archives does not have many of the deeds listed in this work. It should also be noted that the State has stated that about 80% of the deeds, surveys, and other records are waiting to be added to their online database.

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- ⁹ Historic American Buildings Survey, Allen Homestead, Broad Street & Sycamore Avenue, Shrewsbury, Monmouth County, NJ, Engineering Record, Landscapes Survey, Library of Congress; <https://loc.gov/pictures/item/nj0631/>; accessed 2 February 2019.
- ¹⁰ *Tavern Museum at Allen House*, 400 Sycamore Avenue, Shrewsbury, New Jersey, Monmouth County Historical Association; <https://monmouthhistory.org/visit/historic-houses/>. *Allen House*, Visit New Jersey; <https://www.visitnj.org/nj-historic-sites-memorials/allen-house>
- ¹¹ *supra*. Ellis. History of Monmouth County, p. 575.
- ¹² William Nelson. *Documents Relating to the Colonial History of the State of New Jersey*, First Series, Volume 23, Calendar of Wills 1670 -1730, 1:289. (Patterson, NJ; 1901); and *supra*. Nelson. *Documents*. First Series, 21:106. Digital copy at Archive.org.
- ¹³ *supra*. TWO DIFFERENT JEDEDIAH ALLENS
- ¹⁴ Otis M. Humphrey, "Descendants of Robert Dennis of Portsmouth, R.I.," *New England Historical and Genealogical Record*, 49:441 – 442 (Boston: New England Historic Genealogical Association; 1895). Available at Archive.org.
- ¹⁵ *supra*. Stemmer, *Colonial Conveyances*, Deeds, Book D, pp. 370, 372; Book F, pp.288, 291, 384; Book G, pp. 36, 152, 260, 278, 338, 355; Book I, pp. 13, 179. Monmouth County Deeds, Book D, p. 175, *entered* 12 December 1706. *supra*. Nelson. *Documents*. First Series, 21:142, 161.
- ¹⁶ Bucks County, Pennsylvania; Old Rights, Survey 29 March 1702, Book D, Vol. 72, p. 200 (and 209?)
- ¹⁷ Monmouth County Deeds, Book C, p. 157, *acknowledged* 25 May 1691; Book D, p. 174, *acknowledged* 13 April 1706; p. 176, *entered* 12 December 1706; p. 210, *acknowledged* 25 June 1708.
- ¹⁸ *supra*. Nelson. *Documents*. First Series, 21:261, 269, 300, 324, 326.
- ¹⁹ *supra*. Ellis. History of Monmouth County, p. 577. Monmouth County Deeds, Book D, p. 95, *acknowledged* 28 September 1699.
- ²⁰ *supra*. Stillwell. "The Quaker Records," pp. 55 – 63.
- ²¹ *supra*. Nelson. *Documents*. First Series, 21:158.
- ²² *supra*. Ellis. History of Monmouth County, p. 620. William A. Whitehead. *Documents Relating to the Colonial History of the State of New Jersey*, First Series, 1687 – 1703, 2:332, 362, 364 (Newark, NJ; 1881). Digital copy at Archive.org.
- ²³ Asa M. Stackhouse, Speech given on 9 February 1906 at Morrestown, Burlington County, New Jersey "A Retrospect of Colonial Times in Burlington County," (Moorestown, NJ, Settle Press; 1906) pp. 3 – 4.
- ²⁴ Brian A. Smith. *United Kingdom: Our English and Irish Ancestors, Volume 1* (Orlando, FL: self-published; 2014) pp. 100 – 101. Digital version available at Archive.org.
- ²⁵ *supra*. Salter. "Genealogies - Allen," p. ii.
- ²⁶ Edwin P. Tanner, "Studies in History, Economics, and Public Law, Volume XXX The Province of New Jersey 1664 – 1738," *The Quarterly Journal of Economics* (New York: Columbia University; 1908) pp. 481 – 483; Richard Stockton Field. *The Provincial Courts of New Jersey* (New York: New Jersey Historical Society; 1849) pp. 53 – 56; digital versions at Archive.org.
- ²⁷ John E. Stillwell. "'Unrecorded Wills and Inventories of Monmouth County, New Jersey,' from *Historical and Genealogical Miscellany, Volume VI*" (reprint, New Orleans: Shrewsbury Historical Society; 1975) pp. 38 – 39, 42.
- ²⁸ Massachusetts, Town and Vital Records, 1620-1988, Sandwich, Massachusetts, p. 400; Town and City Clerks of Massachusetts. Massachusetts Vital and Town Records. Provo, UT: Holbrook Research Institute (Jay and Delene Holbrook).
- ²⁹ "Ralph Allen of Newport, R.I. and some of his descendents who settled in New-Jersey," *New England Historical and Genealogical Register*, 25:146 (1871) Available at Archive.org.
- ³⁰ Council of Proprietors of West New Jersey Surveys and Warrants, ca. 1680-1952; Surveys, Book A, folio 41; housed at New Jersey State Archives. Early Land Records Database at <https://wwwnet-dos.state.nj.us>
- ³¹ *supra*. "Ralph Allen of Newport, R.I.," *NEHGR*, 25:145 (1871).

³² *supra*. Ellis. History of Monmouth County, p. 617. "Marriages at Chesterfield, New Jersey 1685 – 1730," *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*; 9, 3:347 (Oct 1885).

³³ *supra*. Stemmer, *Colonial Conveyances*, Deeds, Book I-K, p. 493.

³⁴ *supra* Stillwell. "*The Quaker Records*," specifically pp. 55, 58, 59, 61, 62, 68 for marriages of children; pp. 67, 69 for births of their children and grandchildren and additional information.

³⁵ *supra*, Salter. "Genealogies - Allen," p. ii.

³⁶ *supra* Stillwell. "*Unrecorded Wills*," pp. 83 – 84.

³⁷ Shrewsbury Monthly Meeting, Minutes 1674-1895 (*copied 1878*), pp. 144 – 145. Available at Ancestry.com.

³⁸ Shrewsbury Monthly Meeting, Minutes 1674-1895 (*copied 1878*), p. 29. Available at Ancestry.com.

³⁹ Shrewsbury Monthly Meeting, Minutes 1674-1895 (*copied 1878*), p. 25. Available at Ancestry.com.

⁴⁰ "Marriages at Chesterfield, New Jersey 1685 – 1730," *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*; 9, 3:348 (Oct 1885).

⁴¹ A. VanDoren Honeyman (ed). Documents Relating to the Colonial History of the State of New Jersey, First Series, Vol. 30, Calendar of Wills 1730 – 1750, 2:14 (Somerville, NJ; 1928). Digital copy at Archives.org.

⁴² *supra*. Honeyman. Documents, Vol. 30, 2:15.